

# NEWS

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## PORT OF BALTIMORE TO ASSIST VOLVO OCEAN RACE IN DREDGING PROJECTS

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) will provide placement of about 30,000 cubic yards of sediment dredged from channels in both Annapolis and Baltimore harbors in anticipation of the fifth leg of the Volvo Ocean Race next spring in Maryland. The dredging, being done near the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore and the channel leading into Annapolis Harbor, is necessary to ensure adequate clearance for the larger vessels now participating in the race. The racing boats are scheduled to arrive in Baltimore on April 17 from Rio de Janeiro. The next leg of the race will kickoff from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on May 7 for a stopover in New York before heading to England.

“The Volvo Ocean Race is one of the premier sailing events in the world, and we want to do everything in our power to make Maryland’s participation as successful and seamless as possible,” said MPA Executive Director Brooks Royster. “The dredging work currently in progress will assure that each sailboat participating in the Volvo around the world race has smooth entrance and departure while sailing in our harbors.”

Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from Baltimore Harbor and transported to the Hart-Miller Island dredged material containment project. The south cell at Hart-Miller Island was dedicated as a 300-acre wildlife habitat in an onsite ceremony in August of this year. Another 15,000 cubic yards of sediment dredged from Annapolis Harbor will go to the Cox Creek dredged material containment site in Anne Arundel County. The Cox Creek project is a previously utilized placement site recently renovated by the MPA. An 11-acre tidal wetland has recently been developed at the site to provide additional wildlife habitat within Baltimore Harbor.

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*Three hundred years old in 2006, the Port of Baltimore has consistently remained one of the top U.S. ports for several reasons. Located more than 170 miles inland, Baltimore is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fifth largest, second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of the Port of Baltimore recently surpassed a brand new milestone - 8 million tons of general cargo in FY 2005. In 2004, Maryland’s Port of Baltimore was ranked fourteenth in tonnage and seventh in cargo value nationally.*

